



Sawamura Tanosuke as Lady Suzuhiro Casting a spell of revenge

Date

c. 1870

Primary Maker

Toyohara Kunichika

Medium

Color woodblock print on paper

Description

ban tate-e. "This is a portrait of the Kabuki actor Tanosuke Sawamura III [sic--should it be Sawamura Tanosuke?] as the heroine in the play Tsuchigome or The Spider. The story, adapted from an earlier Noh drama, involves the discovery by a beautiful but impoverished young woman of her true aristocratic lineage. She also learns of the dreadful murder of her father. Educated in the powerful magic of the spider, she uses this knowledge to avenge his death and recover her true identity as his daughter. In this work, the magical hand position and the spider's web design on her robe reveal her at the moment of casting the spell which destroys her father's enemies."--from Proper, Improper..., curator Diane Graham (moved from descriptions 5/2011)

Dimensions

Composition: 14 1/16 × 9 9/16 in. (35.7 × 24.3 cm) Sheet: 14 1/16 × 9 9/16 in. (35.7 × 24.3 cm)